

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting data in a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

connecting to a data bus a plurality of processing devices of a corresponding plurality of driver-information devices;

storing graphics data on a storage device connected to the data bus;

causing a processing device of one of the driver-information devices to generate the data;

transmitting the data from the processing device on the data bus, an output unit being connected to the data bus;

causing the output unit to receive the data via the data bus;

transmitting the graphics data from the storage device to the data bus;

processing the data that is received by the output unit; and

causing the output unit to output the data that is processed .

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

the data includes at least one of vehicle data and driving-information items.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

the data bus is digital.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting a driving-information item generated by a navigation device using an output unit, a plurality of processing devices of a corresponding plurality of driver-information devices being connected over a data bus to only one output unit, the navigation device being among the plurality of driver-information devices, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning the driving-information item a position in a digital map;

storing graphics data on a storage device connected to the data bus;
ascertaining a vehicle position by the navigation device;
transmitting the driving-information item with a corresponding position, via the data bus, to the output unit;
transmitting the vehicle position to the output unit;
transmitting the graphics data from the storage device to the data bus; and
outputting, via the output unit, the driving-information item as a function of at least one of the position assigned to the driving-information item and of the vehicle position.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein:
the driving-information item includes driving instructions.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:
displaying a map having a road and route network simultaneously to the output of the driving-information item.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of:
ascertaining a segment of the map containing the vehicle position by one of the output unit and the navigation device; and
displaying the segment by the output unit.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of:
assigning the driving-information item a scale ranking; and
selecting a scale of the segment as a function of the scale ranking.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein:
the step of assigning the scale ranking is performed by the navigation device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:
outputting the driving-information item by the output unit in response to a distance value of a distance from the position assigned to the driving-information item to the vehicle position falling below a preselected distance value.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

causing the output unit to process at least one of a graphics object and audio data, the graphics object being assigned to the driving-information item and the audio data being assigned to the driving-information item and relating to a voice output;

storing the graphics object and the audio data in a memory assigned to the output unit; and

causing the output unit to output the graphics object and the audio data in a corresponding one of a display and a loudspeaker.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting at least one of a graphics object that is at least one of processed and stored in a processing device and audio data that is at least one of stored and processed in the processing device via the data bus to the output unit; and

the graphics object that is at least one of processed and stored in the processing device and the audio data that is at least one of stored and processed in the processing device are output by the output unit.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

by request of a processing device to the output unit, via the data bus, logging on to the processing device for transmission of data to the output unit;

granting the processing device permission by the output unit, via the data bus, to transmit data; and

after the permission is processed, causing the processing device to transmit the data to the output unit.

35. (Currently Amended) A driver-information system, comprising:

- an output unit;
- a plurality of driver-information devices, each driver information device including a processing device;
- a storage device connected to the output unit and for storing graphics data; and
- a data-bus connecting the output unit and each processing device of the driver-information devices, wherein:
 - each processing device is able to generate data,
 - the data is transmittable via the data-bus to the output unit,
 - the graphics data is transmitted from the storage device to the output unit,
 - the output unit is able to process the data, and
 - the output unit is able to output the data.

36. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, further comprising:

- a storage unit, wherein:
 - one of the processing devices is part of a navigation device for determining a route in a road and route network, from a starting point to a destination,
 - the navigation device is connected to the storage unit,
 - a digital map for the road and route network is stored in the storage unit,
 - a driving instruction for a trip in the road and route network can be generated by the navigation device,
 - a position in the digital map is assignable to the driving instruction,
 - the driving instruction and the assigned position are the data that can be transmitted via the data-bus to the output unit, and
 - a driving-information item can be output by the output unit in response to a preselected distance between a vehicle position and the position assigned to the driving-information item being reached.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, further comprising:

an input unit situated at the output unit, wherein:

data that for control can be transmitted by the input unit via the data-bus to selected ones of the processing devices.

40. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, further comprising:

a display unit situated at the output unit, wherein:

the display unit is situated in a region that is in one of a center console of a vehicle and in front of a driver.

41. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 40, wherein:

the display unit is integrated into a combination instrument having a plurality of display devices.

42. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 40, wherein:

the display is a liquid-crystal display.

43. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 40, wherein:

a priority is assigned to one of the data to be output and to information items,
and

data having the highest priority are output first.

44. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, wherein:

the data-bus includes at least a first channel for commands and a second channel for data to be output.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

the plurality of driver-information devices includes at least two of a ~~navigation device~~, a car radio, ~~an on-board computer~~, a climate control device, ~~a video camera~~, a ~~video recorder~~, a personal digital assistant, a notebook computer, a television receiver, a cellular phone, and a mobile Internet access device.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein:

the plurality of driver-information devices includes the navigation device and at least one of a car radio, an on-board computer, a climate-control device, a video camera, a video recorder, a personal digital assistant, a notebook computer, a television receiver, a cellular phone, and a mobile Internet access device.

47. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, wherein:

the plurality of driver-information devices includes at least two of a navigation device, a car radio, an on-board computer, a climate-control device, a video camera, a video recorder, a personal digital assistant, a notebook computer, a television receiver, a cellular phone, and a mobile Internet access device.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein:

the output unit is the only output unit and includes one of a display and a loudspeaker, and
the output unit is connected to the data bus via a terminal.

49. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 35, further comprising:

a terminal via which the output unit is connected to the data bus, wherein:
the output unit is the only output unit and includes one of a display and a loudspeaker.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting data in a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

connecting a plurality of driver-information devices and only one output unit to a data bus via a terminal, the output unit including one of a display and a loudspeaker;

causing a processing device of one of the driver-information devices to generate the data;

storing graphics data on a storage device connected to the data bus

transmitting the data from the processing device on the data bus, an output unit being connected to the data bus;

transmitting the graphics data from the storage device to the data bus;

causing the output unit to receive the data via the data bus;
processing the data that is received by the output unit; and
causing the output unit to output the data that is processed .

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the data includes at least one of vehicle data and driving-information items.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the data bus is digital.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, further comprising the steps of:

storing at least one of a plurality of processed graphics objects and processed audio data in a memory assigned to the output unit; and

outputting at least one of audio data assigned to a driving-information item and a stored graphics object assigned to the driving-information item.

54. (Currently Amended) A driver-information system, comprising:
only one output unit including one of a display and a loudspeaker;
a plurality of driver-information devices, each driver information device including a processing device;
a terminal; ~~and~~
a data-bus connecting the output unit and each processing device of the driver-information devices via the terminal; and

a storage device connected to the data-bus and for storing graphics data, wherein:

each processing device is able to generate data,

the data is transmittable via the data-bus to the output unit,

the graphics data is transmitted from the storage device to the output unit,

the output unit is able to process the data, and

the output unit is able to output the data.

55. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 54, wherein:
the data includes at least one of vehicle data and driving-information items.

56. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 54, wherein:
the data bus is digital.

57. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 54, further comprising:

a memory assigned to the output unit and for storing at least one of a plurality of processed graphics objects and processed audio data; and

an arrangement for outputting at least one of audio data assigned to a driving-information item and a stored graphics object assigned to the driving-information item.

58. (Previously Presented) The driver-information system according to claim 54, further comprising:

a storage unit, wherein:

one of the processing devices is part of a navigation device for determining a route in a road and route network, from a starting point to a destination,

the navigation device is connected to the storage unit,

a digital map for a road and route network is stored in the storage unit,

a driving instruction for a trip in the road and route network can be generated by the navigation device,

a position in the digital map is assignable to the driving instruction,

the driving instruction and the assigned position are the data that can be transmitted via the data-bus to the output unit, and

a driving-information item can be output by the output unit in response to a preselected distance between a vehicle position and the position assigned to the driving-information item being reached.

59. (New) The method as recited in Claim 20, wherein the graphics data represents one of a direction arrow, a road map display, and a route.

60. (New) The method as recited in Claim 20, wherein the graphics data may be formatted according to one of a bitmap format, a vector format, and a metaformat representing a combination of the bitmap format and the vector format.